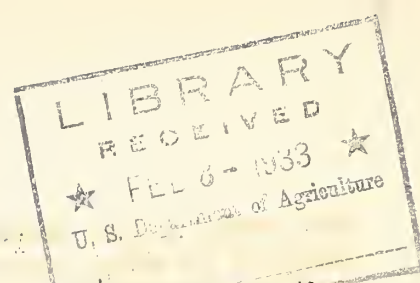


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GETTING NEW 4-H MEMBERS

A radio talk by Virgil Shrider, Paulding County, Ohio, delivered in the 4-H club period of the National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, January 7, 1933, broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

Four-H Club boys and girls of the nation-wide radio audience:

The clubs of Paulding County and the whole State of Ohio send you best wishes for 4-H achievement in this new year. I suppose that my talk on this program really is addressed chiefly to the 108,000 local leaders of 4-H clubs who play such a large voluntary part in the achievement of the members. Now without members for the clubs, these local leaders wouldn't have much to do. And I suppose that's why, as a representative of Ohio 4-H clubs, I am to discuss the question of membership in 4-H clubs with you on this first club broadcast of the new year.

Last year the 4-H enrollment in our county increased more than 50 per cent. I am here to tell you the story of the local leadership methods back of that increase.

One main reason was the untiring effort on the part of club members, local leaders, and our county extension agent. We gave every club member two enrollment cards. One was for himself, one for some other boy or girl he knew. It was surprising how many new members enrolled because the boys and girls already members offered them the opportunity.

Then we local leaders also made it a point to tell the parents of all the children in our neighborhoods not members of 4-H clubs of the projects going on during the year that might be of interest to their children.

I think one of the most important things we did was to increase the age limit and to install projects that would interest the older boys and girls. I believe that the main reason why the majority of boys and girls cease 4-H club work when they reach the age of 18 or 19 is that they have outgrown their projects.

And that brings me to the question that every prospective 4-H club member asks: "What kind of a club shall I join?" Our answer is to join one carrying on a project that will be useful to him and to his family and also to the community. We give them a wide range of choice in Paulding County, for we have members enrolled in colt, calf, pig, lamb, rabbit, farm engineering, food, clothing and flower clubs. When enough people in the community want a new project, we organize a club around that project. We consider parents as well as youngsters.

We believe that after the club members enroll, and the interest of their parents is aroused, the best way to do effective 4-H work is to give the members responsibility. What a pleasure it is to be the leader of a group of eager youngsters. And may I offer here a word of advice to local club leaders -- let your

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club members plan their own program. It means more to them, than we can comprehend, to be able, after patient toil, to point to their program with pride and say, "That is our program."

We have tried to give the club members in our Paulding county communities enough activities besides their project work to keep up interest through the competitive spirit of youth, and its need for wholesome community recreation. All our clubs have a chance to compete in county contests to gain the reward of a trip to the State Fair; all of them display the results of their summer's work at the county fair. All the club members can and do attend the county club picnic, the yearly educational tour, and many join in the fun and relaxation of the one week 4-H club camp.

And of course they take part in community activities. They work together in grange, farm bureau, and farmers institute programs. The community works with them on achievement programs. Surely Dame Fortune could find no occasion to beam more brightly than at a meeting that started to be an achievement program and turned out to be a community gathering. With the close cooperation of the county extension agent, the local leaders, the State club supervisors, the 4-H club members, and the citizens of the community, a program of 4-H club work must surely succeed.

It has been a privilege to talk with you about the experiences of us local 4-H leaders in Paulding County, Ohio. If this little story has been helpful to some of the other 108,000 local leaders in the United States, we're glad. All of us pledge our best efforts in 1933 to help meet, through 4-H club development, the demands of the crisis in American rural life. I think I speak for all the local 4-H leaders and extension agents when I say that 4-H work helps to meet the present critical situation, and also to build for the future by developing the highest type of manhood, womanhood, and American citizenship.
